

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's Office Action which was mailed May 24, 2005. For the following reasons, Crandall, Jr. et al. neither anticipates nor makes obvious the claimed invention. Crandall focuses and teaches solutions directed to a particular form of an egress system from a region. As noted therein:

"An egress system for use in a structure which defines a plurality of paths of travel where the system comprises one or more visual signs, each visual sign being located at a selected point along one or more paths of travel and each visual sign being configured to convey information in the form of visual communication and to convey at least two alternative messages." (Abstract)

Further Crandall states:

"This invention is deemed to fulfill these important needs by providing, among other things, an egress system which is capable of safely and efficiently guiding both sighted people and blind people out of a building or other structure during emergency and non-emergency situations." (paragraph 0007 Crandall, Jr. et al.)

Consistent with the above, Crandall, Jr. et al. focuses only on providing safe exit paths for those wishing to leave a region. This is emphasized further wherein Crandall, Jr. state:

"In another particularly preferred embodiment, the system provides an emergency egress system further comprising the conveyance of real-time visual and non-visual communication concerning the location of the nearest safe exit, direction to a safe exit, and/or areas to avoid....After receiving information regarding these conditions from the sensor, the central processing unit in this embodiment is then programmed to conduct a risk assessment to determine the safest route(s) of egress and transmit this determination to appropriate display devices." (paragraph 0018 Crandall, Jr. et al.)

While it is important to provide safe pathways for those wishing to leave in the area where there may be a dangerous condition, it is also important to provide information to first responders as to the location of such condition or conditions. Crandall, Jr. et al. is completely silent in this regard.

In the Office Action the Examiner stated relative to rejecting claim 1 that Crandall, Jr. et al.:

"establishes at least one ingress path into a portion of the region indicated via some of the detectors, as being the location of a hazardous condition; the ingress path is the path indicated by the flashing red diagonal bar to direct evacuees away from the hazardous area and alternatively direct responder to the area, as seen at least in Figures. 1-3." (Page 2, Office Action, numbered section 2)

It is submitted that the above wording is not consistent with the teaching of Crandall, Jr. et al. which teaches only the development of egress paths from a region. Such paths are intended to lead those persons from the region safely away from the dangerous condition and not in any way towards it. Hence, Crandall, Jr. et al. can be expected to provide pathways that will hopefully immediately move the evacuees from the condition as directly as possible.

The paths proposed by Crandall, Jr. et al. are unlike the paths which would be suitable for first responders who would want to arrive at the condition as immediately as possible and would want as broad access to the condition as possible so as to be able to access and address the nature and full extent of the condition.

The assessment and addressing the full extent of a hazardous condition, as is the function of first responders such as firemen or the like, is quite different from the need to evacuate individuals from the region as quickly as possible. A teaching of the development of egress paths as described by Crandall, Jr. et al. is in fact not a teaching or disclosure of any of the aspects of development of different ingress paths as would be used by first responders.

Embodiments of the present invention define ingress paths of a type which would be suitable for first responders to immediately bring them to a fire condition, as illustrated as paths

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Amendment A

Reply to Office Action mailed May 24, 2005

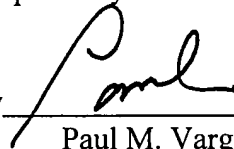
I1 in Figs. 3-1, 3-2 of the present application. Additionally, Fig. 3-2 of the present application illustrates additional ingress paths I2, I3. The ingress paths I1, 2, and 3 are in fact not the same as and are different from the egress paths such as E1 which direct evacuees away from the fire condition illustrated in those figures. Unlike the egress paths, the ingress paths, I1, 2 and 3 lead first responders as directly and as immediately as possible toward the fire condition in the region.

Thus, for at least the above reasons the pending claims are allowable. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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